



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

MEMORANDUM

December 14, 2017

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: December 19, 2017 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday December 19, **2017 at the Germantown Library Room B 19840 Century Blvd. Germantown MD. 20874 at 7:00 pm.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the November 21, 2017 AAC meeting are attached.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site.
<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810

e:aacDecember(aac17)



**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
December 19, 2017**

1. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the November 21, 2017 AAC meeting minutes.
3. The OAG is continuing to work with Office of Human Resources to complete the reclassifications of all OAG staff- The following reclassifications are complete-John Zawitoski, District Manager MIII, Karen Walker-OSC, Melissa Steed-PAA, Cathy Yingling-AA-II, Jackie Arnold, AA-II. The following reclassifications are still pending-Vacant Farmland Preservation Program Manager-**Please note the County has now implemented a Hiring Freeze**, James Harne and Shelly Ingram Resource Conservationist I, II, III, and Jeremy Criss, Director MII.
4. The ZTA 17-06 Agricultural Zone-TDR Requirements was heard by the Planning Housing and Economic Development-PHED Committee on November 27, 2017. The PHED rejected council staff recommendations in favor of recommendations from the agricultural community. The only remaining issue is non-conforming use of a pre-1958 dwelling. The PHED committee supported the reconstruction of the dwelling where the tenant does not need to be engaged in the agricultural operation and the size of reconstructed dwelling size can exceed the size of what it is replacing. The OAG was told by the Planning Director that a non-conforming use cannot be expanded and if the agricultural community moves forward the ZTA will be remanded back to the Planning Board again. The OAG responded that the reconstructed dwelling cannot be expanded and it can only be built the same size as what it is replacing. The private covenant can be recorded prior to issuing the building permit and the Farm Labor Housing Units includes [up to 3] mobile homes. **The Full Council work session on ZTA 17-06 is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2018.**
5. The OAG has responded to requests from the Administration to address the revenue short fall of the County. The Office of Agriculture must identify the following:

2% Budget Reduction current fiscal year FY18	\$20,190 + \$7,059=27,249
Motor Pool line item at -\$1,281)	
2% savings in the current fiscal year FY18	\$19,784
4% Budget Reduction for FY19	<u>\$39,665</u>
Total Reductions to OAG-FY18 & FY19	\$86,698
6. County Council Bill 23-17 Animal Control-Performance Animal-Violations. The Public Safety Committee scheduled a second Work Session on November 9, 2017. Following the Work Session Council member Marc Elrich scheduled a meeting on December 7, 2017 to discuss the concerns of the agricultural community. The Full Council approved the Final Reading of the Bill 23-17 and the link below will take you to the Council Staff packet. Please note the **(attached email)** from Marty Svrcek that contains the Addendum packet with additional amendments to Bill 23-17.

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&clip_id=14187&meta_id=147401

County Council Members approved the following agricultural exemption: *Any activity, including agriculture and farming uses defined by Chapter 59 (Zoning), that uses animal's other than those identified as wild under Subsection 5-204 (b) (Traveling Animal Act-Prohibited) is exempt from the prohibition in Subsection 5-204 (b).*

7. The Agricultural Advisory Committee submitted a letter dated November 29, 2017 to the County DOT on the Zion Road Bridge replacement. **(See Attached)** Please note that the Montgomery County Farm Bureau and the Montgomery County Agricultural Producers are also providing letters to the County DOT with recommendations on the replacement of the Zion Road bridge.
8. The MNCPPC conducted the first Agritourism Study Advisory Committee meeting on November 29, 2017. The second meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 17, 2018. Michele Cropp, Paula Linthicum, are members of the Advisory Committee. The study will evaluate the current zoning-land use, building, health codes of the County to see if changes are needed to promote more opportunities of agritourism. Some of the members of the Advisory Committee will probably push back on the types of events and venues that DPS is currently approving. **(Please see attached the notes from the November 29, 2017 meeting of the Agritourism Advisory Committee meeting)**
9. Follow up from the Office of Agriculture tour of three agritourism farms in Loudoun County VA. The DPS has responded back to the OAG they are reinstating the policies for approving agricultural buildings for storing, sorting, processing, and aggregating agricultural products and **NOT** require commercial building permits. The DPS is now referring all agricultural building requests to the OAG for review and agricultural certification.
10. The Office of Agriculture has partnered with the Maryland Agricultural Resource Based Industry Development Corporation MARBIDCO to create a matching grant program for farmers installing deer fencing. One contract has been approved and three more contracts are pending.
11. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is January 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at the Germantown Library 19840 Century Blvd. Room A Germantown, MD. 20874.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery Soil Conservation Bd of Supervisors-December 8, 2017 @ 9:00am
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-December 11, 2017 @ 6:00pm
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Supervisors-December 12, 2017@7:00pm
Montgomery Co AG RESERVE Alcohol Production Roundtable-Dec 14, 2017@2:00pm
Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee- December 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm.